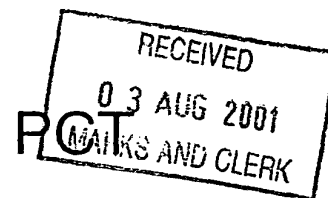


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY



To:

ROBINSON,JOHN
MARKS & CLERK
4220 Nash Court
Oxford Business Park South
Oxford OX4 2RU
GRANDE BRETAGNE

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 01.08.2001	
Applicant's or agent's file reference JSR.P59676PC	REPLY DUE within 3 month(s) from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/GB00/03694	International filing date (day/month/year) 26/09/2000
Priority date (day/month/year) 28/09/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G02F1/139	
Applicant SHARP LABORATORIES OF EUROPE LIMITED et al.	

1. This written opinion is the first drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain document cited
 - VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 28/01/2002.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer / Examiner Diot, P Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits) Cardenas, C Telephone No. +31 70 340 3370
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I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, pages:

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Claims

Inventive step (IS) Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Claims

- 2. Citations and explanations**
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document/s/:

D1: ARMITAGE D ET AL: "NEMATIC LIQUID-CRYSTAL VISCOSITY AND RESPONSE TIME" SID Digest, SAN JOSE, US, vol. 27, 1996, pages 584-587

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses the influence of the flow viscosity coefficients on the optical response time of surface mode LCD.

The subject-matter of claim 1 (the same applies for claim 2) differs in that in order to optimize the optical response time the choice of the liquid crystal material is made which verify $\eta_1 - \eta_2 / \gamma_1 \geq 1.15$ or ≤ 0.9 .

The search has not revealed document which could hint at the claimed solution.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

Claim 2 comprises all the features of claim 1 and is therefore not appropriately formulated as a claim dependent on the latter (Rule 6.4 PCT).

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JSR.P50676PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 03694	International filing date (day/month/year) 26/09/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/09/1999
Applicant SHARP LABORATORIES OF EUROPE LIMITED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G02F1/139

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

INSPEC, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>ARMITAGE D ET AL: "NEMATIC LIQUID-CRYSTAL VISCOSITY AND RESPONSE TIME" JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION DISPLAY, SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION DISPLAY, SAN JOSE, US, vol. 27, 1996, pages 584-587, XP000960529 ISSN: 1071-0922 cited in the application the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--- -/-</p>	1-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/01/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Diot, P



C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>ONDA S ET AL: "Dynamic behavior of OCB-cell with fast response for a color sequential liquid crystal display" PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18TH. INTERNATIONAL DISPLAY RESEARCH CONFERENCE. ASIA DISPLAY '98, PROCEEDINGS OF EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL DISPLAY RESEARCH CONFERENCE (ASIA DISPLAY '98), SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, 28 SEPT.-1 OCT. 1998, pages 1055-1058, XP002155364 USA the whole document</p>	1
A	<p>KNEPPE H ET AL: "Determination of the viscosity coefficients of the liquid crystal MBBA" MOLECULAR CRYSTALS AND LIQUID CRYSTALS, 1981, UK, vol. 65, no. 1-2, pages 23-28, XP000972577 ISSN: 0026-8941 cited in the application the whole document</p>	1
A	<p>OH C S: "INDUCED SMECTIC MESOMORPHISM BY INCOMPATIBLE NEMATOGENS" MOLECULAR CRYSTALS AND LIQUID CRYSTALS, GORDON AND BREACH, LONDON, GB, vol. 42, no. 1 - 03, 1977, pages 1-14, XP000964547 ISSN: 0026-8941 cited in the application the whole document</p>	1,3,5
A	<p>BRADSHAW M J ET AL: "THE BEND AND SPLAY ELASTIC CONSTANTS ON APPROACHING AN INJECTED SMECTIC PHASE" MOLECULAR CRYSTALS AND LIQUID CRYSTALS, GORDON AND BREACH, LONDON, GB, vol. 99, no. 1 - 04, 1983, pages 107-116, XP000964602 ISSN: 0026-8941 cited in the application the whole document</p>	1,3,5
A	<p>GRAF H -H ET AL: "SHEAR AND ROTATIONAL VISCOSITY COEFFICIENTS OF TWO NEMATIC LIQUID CRYSTALS" MOLECULAR PHYSICS, LONDON, GB, vol. 77, no. 3, 20 October 1992 (1992-10-20), pages 521-538, XP000964546 figures 7,10</p>	1

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JSR.P59676PC		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/03694	International filing date (day/month/year) 26/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 28/09/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G02F1/139			
Applicant SHARP LABORATORIES OF EUROPE LIMITED et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 09/03/2001		Date of completion of this report 17.12.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized officer Diot, P Telephone No. +31 70 340 3282 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/03694

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/03694

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-12
	No:	Claims	

Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-12
	No:	Claims	

Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-12
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: ARMITAGE D ET AL: "NEMATIC LIQUID-CRYSTAL VISCOSITY AND RESPONSE TIME" SID Digest, SAN JOSE, US, vol. 27, 1996, pages 584-587
Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses the influence of the flow viscosity coefficients on the optical response time of surface mode LCD.

The subject-matter of claim 1 (the same applies for claim 2) differs in that in order to optimize the optical response time the choice of the liquid crystal material is made which verify $\eta_1 - \eta_2 / \gamma_1 \geq 1.15$ or ≤ 0.9 .

The search has not revealed document which could hint at the claimed solution.